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EXAMINER	
FRINKS, R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
332	10

DATE MAILED: 11/15/84

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire \_\_\_\_\_ month(s), 30 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.       | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.                  |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449             | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152 |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474 | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____   |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-28 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
4. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are rejected.
5. ☒ Claims 29-33 ARE SUGGESTED FOR INTERFERENCE PURPOSES.
6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated.
8. ☐ Allowable subject matter having been indicated, formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. These drawings are ☐ acceptable;  
☐ not acceptable (see explanation).
10. ☐ The ☐ proposed drawing correction and/or the ☐ proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner. ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved. ☐ disapproved (see explanation). However, the Patent and Trademark Office no longer makes drawing changes. It is now applicant's responsibility to ensure that the drawings are corrected. Corrections MUST be effected in accordance with the instructions set forth on the attached letter "INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES", PTO-1474.
12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received  
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

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1. The following claim(s), found allowable, are suggested for the purpose of interference: Claims 1, 2, 8 and 18-20 are considered to be unpatentable over the suggested claims. APPLICANT SHOULD MAKE THE CLAIM(S) 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE CONSIDERED A DISCLAIMER OF THE SUBJECT MATTER INVOLVED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CFR 1.203.

29. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, said commissure supports terminating in free ends and at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly;

a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder with the valve holder being remote from the free ends of the commissure supports; and

means at least partially on the valve holder for deflecting at least one commissure support radially inwardly.

30. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a suture ring, a plurality of commissure supports projecting from the suture ring and terminating in free end portions and a plurality of valve leaflets;

a valve holder;

elongated flexible means for attaching the valve holder to the heart valve with said suture ring

being between the valve holder and the commissure supports; and

a portion of said elongated flexible means, extending between said free end portions of said commissure supports to form a suture loop guard.

31. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly and each of said commissure supports having a free end;

a valve holder including first and second holder members and means for mounting the first holder member for movement relative to the second holder member;

means for attaching the heart valve to the valve holder with the valve holder being remote from the free ends of the commissure supports; and

means responsive to the movement of the first holder member relative to the second holder member for deflecting at least one of the commissure supports radially inwardly.

32. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of said commissure supports being deflectable radially inwardly;

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a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the  
valve holder;

means for deflecting at least said one com-  
missure support radially inwardly;

a handle;

means for attaching the handle to the valve  
holder; and

said deflecting means being responsive to the  
attachment of the handle to the holder to deflect said  
one commissure support radially inwardly.

33. An assembly comprising:

a prosthetic heart valve having a plurality of  
commissure supports and valve leaflets, at least one of  
said commissure supports being deflectable radially  
inwardly;

a valve holder;

means for attaching the heart valve to the  
valve holder;

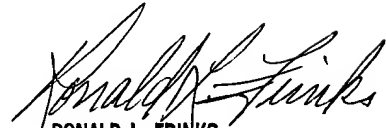
a rotatable handle attachable to the valve  
holder; and

means responsive to the rotation of the handle  
for deflecting at least said one commissure support  
radially inwardly.

R. Frinks:ch

703-557-3131

11/13/84

  
RONALD L. FRINKS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 332